

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Attached is one (1) sheet of replacement drawings showing Figures 1-3. Figures 2-3 have been corrected to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(m) and are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

**Remarks:**

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated November 13, 2008 and the references cited therein. Claims 1 and 3-8 have been amended. Claims 2 and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 3-8 are currently pending. Reconsideration is hereby requested.

In the Action, the drawings were objected to as the "steering motor" and "vehicle" must be shown or the features cancelled from the claims. The claims have been amended to clarify that the feedback assembly is for a vehicle and a steering wheel. Applicants assert that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

The Office Action indicated that Figures 2 and 3 fail to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(m) as they contain solid black shading. New formal drawings are included herewith that include proper hatching and have eliminated the solid black shading. Applicants assert that the drawings are in compliance and request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masaaki. Claim 1 has been amended and now recites a feedback assembly for a motor vehicle electronically controlled electro-mechanical actuating unit, the feedback assembly comprising a connection to the actuating unit, a shaft having a longitudinal axis defining a principal axis, the shaft configured for being angularly fixed to a steering member of a motor vehicle and to rotate about the principal axis. Claim 1 further recites an electrical actuator angularly coupled to the shaft for exerting a resistant torque on the shaft according to conditions of movement of a motor vehicle, and a first mechanical transmission with concurrent axes set between the electrical

actuator and the shaft, wherein one of the concurrent axes is the principal axis and the other concurrent axis is a first secondary axis. Claim 1 further recites a relative measurement device of an angular position of the shaft and a second mechanical transmission with concurrent axes set between the relative-measurement device and the shaft, wherein one of the concurrent axes is the principal axis and the other of the concurrent axes is a second secondary axis, and wherein the first and second secondary axes are concurrent with one another and with the principal axis, and form with one another and with the principal axis respective right angles. Claim 1 incorporates the features of claim 2 as well as other differences over the prior art. Claim 1 recites that the two secondary axes are concurrent with one another and with the principal axis and form with one another and with the principal axes respective right angles. Applicants assert that this is neither shown nor suggested by the Masaaki reference or any other prior art or combination thereof. The configuration of these axes provides for a much more compact feedback assembly than is possible with the prior art or any combination thereof. Applicants assert that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is in condition for allowance. Moreover, claims 3 and 6 are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as well as others. Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 4-5 and 7-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and claim 5 depends from claim 4. Moreover, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form and claim 8 depends from claim 7. Applicants assert that claims 4-5 and 7-8 are therefore allowable.

A speedy and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

3/13/09

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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